



# HQ AETC News Clips

## Randolph AFB TX



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### **General, official testify in spy trial**

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Spy suspect Brian Patrick Regan examined documents that could have harmed national security if they'd been turned over to Iraq, an Air Force general and an official of the government's spy satellite agency testified Tuesday.

Air Force Maj. Gen. David Deptula and Dennis Fitzgerald, deputy director of the National Reconnaissance Office, said the retired Air Force master sergeant saw satellite photos of missile sites, confidential reports of Iraqi weaponry and a defense manual.

Regan, 40, of Bowie, Md., is accused of offering to sell confidential documents, including satellite photos, to Iraq, Libya and China for \$13 million.



# AETC Bases News Clips

## LAUGHLIN AFB, TX



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## Citizens react to Columbia disaster

**BILL SONTAG**

Staff Writer

Saddened, confused citizens and visitors throughout Del Rio were overwhelmed with the same shock and revulsion experienced by all Americans this tragic Saturday morning. And compassionate peoples everywhere shared our sorrow at the loss of the space shuttle Columbia and its seven brave souls aboard.

Most Del Rioans went on about their weekend peregrinations, errands and chores today, but only after absorbing to the extent possible the almost unfathomable disaster unfolding on television as they started their day. No one awoke hoping the hours ahead would be as memorable as the day Lee Harvey Oswald placed John Fitzgerald Kennedy in his rifle sights, or when Islamic terrorists took aim at the World Trade Center. And Del Rioans certainly hoped, until today, that nothing like the demise of the Challenger space craft in 1986, would ever be visited on this country again.

Businessman and civic leader John Ludlum summarized the thoughts and fears of yet another act of terrorism flashing through the minds of many Saturday morning. "My first thought was, 'Oh, my God, here we go again!'" On realization that the loss is more likely a yet-to-be-understood calamity, Ludlum chafed, "It's just a national tragedy; very frustrating."

Flags around Del Rio were lowered to the customary half-staff position of mourning. Funeral homes, car dealerships, hamburger stands, grocery stores and private residences observed the tradition within hours after somber news anchors echoed the official announcement that "The shuttle is lost." The single official flag at Laughlin Air Force Base, in front of Wing command headquarters, was not lowered until mid-afternoon when base personnel received official instructions to do so. At the Del Rio Civic Center all three flags, U.S., Texas and City of Del Rio, stood at half-mast, reminding attendees at Saturday's Winter Arts & Crafts Festival of the nation's mourning.

Festival browser Amado "Manny" Carrillo, retired U.S. Air Force aircraft maintenance

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# AETC Bases News Clips

## LAUGHLIN AFB, TX



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### Citizens react to Columbia disaster, Con't.

specialist, was saddened by the loss of Columbia, and a bit philosophical as well. "When you join the Air Force, you sort of expect that you're signing up for the possibility of those kinds of catastrophes." Velida Barnes, retired school teacher, was grateful to be with a loved one when the news came. "It's really sad. I just felt for the families. I was with my mom, who's 95 and very alert, so we both said a prayer for the families."

Del Rio City Councilwoman Pat Cole evinced the pathos felt by most Americans. "I was just devastated," Cole lamented, adding "because it brought back all the same feelings when the Challenger went down."

Barbara Plyler, co-organizer of the Winter Arts & Crafts Festival, remembered the Challenger disaster, also seeing parallels with her reactions Saturday morning.

"I was at home, not feeling well with the flu. And on TV I saw the two plumes of smoke fanning out from the explosion. I turned up the sound, and no one seemed to know what was going on. But then we realized it was just the worst thing that could have happened."

Carman Wiese, owner/manager of Del Rio Home Oxygen and Medical Equipment, paused briefly at the Arts & Crafts Festival to reminisce about the Challenger parallel. "Same thing as this! Shock, horror, a feeling of 'It can't happen to the United States; we're invulnerable.'"

Wiese taught 5th grade in 1986 at Garwood Elementary, Rice Consolidated Independent School District near Eagle Lake, Texas. "When Challenger went down," she recalled, "the principal came around to each class to inform the teachers and kids." With predictable confusion, already infused with melancholy, Wiese wondered aloud then and now, "Is there any possibility that any of them could be saved? Were there any safeguards that could have protected them."



News-Herald photo by Bill Sontag

Flags, like this one at Whataburger, were lowered to half-staff throughout the city Saturday following the tragic loss of the Space shuttle Columbia and its crew.



# AETC Bases News Clips

## Vance AFB OK



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## BRAC items top Enid City Commission agenda

By Robert Barror  
Staff Writer

Enid city commissioners will discuss a detailed study of Enid to prepare for the upcoming base closure round during their study session.

The meeting will be at 11 a.m. today in the city manager's conference room, 401 W. Garriott.

City officials already have been working on quality-of-life issues related to Vance Air Force Base, as well as housing and military construction.

The Spectrum Group, headed by retired Air Force Gen. J.B. Davis, completed a detailed study of Enid, and the commission will consider that today.

Mike Cooper, chairman of the Vance Task Force, will present the study to commissioners.

Davis is a former commissioner of the Base Closure and Realignment Commission process and is familiar with what is needed to maintain Vance, which has an economic impact of more than \$200 million a year to Enid and northwest Oklahoma.

All bases are at risk this round, according to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. Oklahoma is one of a handful of states that have not lost a base in previous BRAC rounds.

A successor to Irv Honigsberg in the Ward 1 commission seat will be appointed during the noon city commission meeting in the commission chambers.

Honigsberg resigned the office to run for mayor. The term expires in May.

Jeff Woolsey, 213 Wellington, is the only applicant for the position, as of Monday afternoon.

Woolsey is a lifelong Enid resident and has lived in Ward 1 for 10 years.

Appointments also are scheduled for the Long-Term Care Authority of Enid. Three terms have expired and some resignations have occurred.

Rezoning requests for tracts in the 500 block of North Cleveland and on West Thompson also will be considered.

The commission will discuss a recommendation to remove stop signs from the north and south-bound intersections of East Park and Southeast Railroad Ave.

An emergency resolution with the Spectrum Group for consulting on the BRAC round also will be considered. The resolution calls for paying the group \$10,000 per month, plus out-of-pocket expenses.

A total of \$60,000 will be transferred from the city unencumbered funds to the Vance Development Authority fund, if approved.

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# AETC Bases News Clips

## Vance AFB OK



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### Letters to the editor

#### Upgrading our schools and streets are a top priority

Many important issues have been decided at the polls by Enid citizens but none have been more critical than the proposals on the Feb. 11 ballot. We must bring our schools up to modern standards. We must retain Vance Air Force Base. We need to continue to upgrade our streets.

Enid's school facilities are thirty years behind in many ways, and for our children to go forward in the 21st century, we have to level the playing field. Other proposals, including building a new high school, would cost three times as much and are not feasible. This plan is well conceived and is economically sound.

In the last BRAC round, Enid's school facilities and classroom technology were identified as major deficiencies for Vance. The U.S. Department of Defense plans to close more bases in the 2005 base closure round than in all of the previous rounds combined. The competing cities with pilot training bases are committing millions of dollars to correct their deficiencies. Vance is very vulnerable and we cannot afford to sit idly by and wish later that we had done everything possible to protect this vital component of our local economy.

No one likes taxes, but we can afford this one quarter cent sales tax. It simply replaces the tax that went off on Dec. 31, 2002. We can afford the limited increase in property tax, which will still leave us with lower property taxes than our peer cities. What none of us can afford are the consequences of not addressing the urgent needs of our community. No one else is going to provide for Enid's education and infrastructure requirements and work to protect Vance.

Let's all get out and vote 'Yes' on Feb. 11th for Enid's future and for the future of our children.

Jerry Blankenship, M.D.  
Enid

#### We can't afford to gamble with our future. Vote 'Yes' Feb. 11

I am going to vote 'Yes' on the proposal Feb. 11th for our schools, Vance AFB and the continuation of a very successful street improvement program for the city of Enid. To do otherwise would be a foolish gamble on our future.

How many times have we looked backwards and wished we, as a city had done something different to keep Champlin or other high paying jobs here instead of quietly letting them leave town? When I was growing up, Highway 81 was the main north-south highway in this part of the United States. In the 1950's, Enid's indifference allowed the new Interstate 35 to be built 30 minutes to the east and that has eliminated Enid from meeting the criteria of most companies looking for locations upon which to build good job producing businesses. In the early 1900's, for lack of a water line, Mr. Cessna moved his fledgling aircraft company to Wichita, Kan.

All this is just to say we have to be pro-active if we want to grow. Enid was pro-active when it spent \$800,000 to purchase the bike plant that later became instrumental to help Advance Food start its spectacular growth and become Enid's second largest employer.

To retain current jobs like those at Vance and to attract new ones, a city must have excellent education programs and facilities from kindergarten through college as well as good infrastructure and quality of life within the city. The Feb. 11th vote is a sensible solution to help assure we have adequate public education facilities and a method of keeping our streets repaired. Hopefully, this will help keep Vance. The goals of this proposal are not only essential to retain Vance but are needed to attract and retain other jobs in our community. Please vote 'Yes' on Feb. 11.

Dan L. Dillingham  
Enid

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# AETC Bases News Clips

## Vance AFB OK



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### Your vote is critical for Enid's future.

The YES KIDS, ENID, VANCE proposals are the result of cooperation between the City of Enid and the Enid Public Schools. The school bond and 1/4¢ sales tax will:

- Upgrade our public schools to 21st Century standards  
Provides facility, technology and transportation improvements for our schools
- Continue Enid's successful Road Maintenance Program  
Provides funding to upgrade Enid's arterial roads
- Help protect and enhance Vance Air Force Base - Enid's largest employer  
Allows Vance and Enid to be competitive in the 2005 BRAC round. Vance has over a \$200 million annual economic impact on Enid. We must do everything possible to protect it. Schools and quality of life will be major factors in the '05 base closure round.

#### Enid High School

Eliminate portables, build 9-classroom addition, air-conditioning upgrade, new cafeteria, food court, restroom renovations

#### Junior High and Elementary Schools

Eliminate most portables, air-conditioning upgrades, exterior and interior repairs, restroom improvements, fire alarm upgrades

\$14.1 million

#### Technology (Computers, printers, internet access)

\$ 2.5 million

#### Transportation (new buses)

\$ 2.1 million

#### Capital improvements for six other public school districts in the city limits (Chisholm, Pioneer-Pleasant Vale, Drummond, Kremlin-Hillside, Waukomis & Garber)

\* \$ 2.0 million

\* Funded by sales tax

#### TOTAL

\$ 27 million

#### Arterial Streets

Continuation of Enid's street maintenance program which began in 1998.

The percentage of Enid's arterial roads in good condition has increased from 20% to 54% in the last four years.

Allows Enid to leverage Federal and State funds for arterial street program.

First phase projects will be on the approaches to Vance Air Force Base.  
(Cleveland, Fox and Pride Drives)

\* Funded by sales tax

#### TOTAL

\* \$ 5.3 million

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February 11

For more information visit YesEnid.

KIDS ENID VANCE







# AETC Bases News Clips

## Little Rock AFB AR



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### Gov. pledges support of local base

BY MARK MAGIE  
PUBLISHER

Governor Mike Huckabee pledged his support Monday to do everything at the state level to keep Little Rock Air Force Base going. His remarks came at a quarterly luncheon of the Little Rock Air Force Base Community Council, a group of elected officials and civic and business leaders from central Arkansas.

Another round of base closures is scheduled for 2005, and while most people are confident the Jacksonville military installation will pass muster, vigilance is the current posture.

With more than \$200 million annually in payroll, the base contributes more than \$400 million to the state's economy, according to the governor. "Keeping what we have is as important as bringing in new industries," he said.

"It is easy to talk about facts and figures [about the base], but



**TRADITIONAL GIFT:** Gov. Mike Huckabee receives a special coin from 314th Airlift Wing commander, Col. David Scott.

one of the least told factors of the base's impact is seen in the faces and lives of Arkansans," Huckabee said. He said while visiting around the state, he'll ask residents how they ended up in Arkansas. "I was stationed at Little Rock Air Force Base," they tell the governor. "After traveling the world, when it came time to retire, they chose Arkansas," Gov. Huckabee said.

"The greatest sales force in

Arkansas is the men and women who were coerced here by the federal government, but who chose to live here after retirement. There's no greater compliment," he said. "Folks who've contributed a great amount to our country are now serving in the state ... many in executive positions. There are untold benefits to having Little Rock Air Force Base we don't even begin to understand," the governor said.

*Jacksonville Patriot*

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# AETC Bases News Clips

## Little Rock AFB AR



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## FAA awards McDonald the National Safety Counselor of the Year 2002

BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS NATHANIEL KELLEHER  
314TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Federal Aviation Administration officials recently named a Little Rock Air Force Base member the Little Rock District, Southwest Region and National Aviation Safety Counselor of the year.

Maj. Jim McDonald, 314th Airlift Wing chief of flight safety, received the Little Rock district and Southwest region awards on base Jan. 15 and is scheduled to receive the national honor at the Oshkosh, Wis., air show July 29-Aug. 4.

"I'm really overwhelmed, and that's an understatement," said Major McDonald. "I realize the significance of winning a national award from a government agency, and it still overwhelms me."

He said the awards demonstrate the effectiveness of the base's flight safety program and that he couldn't have received them without the hard work of his teammates.

"This is an incredible accomplishment for the pro-



Maj. Jim McDonald

gram we have here at Little Rock Air Force Base and in the state of Arkansas," he said. "It's a team effort, and our base and the FAA work very, very close together to get out the message of aviation safety throughout the state. We do this as a team. My name might be on the awards, but it's really indicative of the excellent program we have in the state."

Major McDonald and Maj. Marc Sicard, 314th AW flight safety officer, travel throughout the state to brief civilian pilots about flight safety and the role of the C-130 here.

"He's a pleasure to work with," said Major Sicard. "He's passionate about his work, and it shows. When everybody else goes home at 4:30, he's still working, and if you look at when he does these briefings, they are all on Saturdays, and they are all at seven and eight o'clock at night."

Major McDonald said he and Major Sicard try to airport in the state, especially smaller air-

ports. "We go out both as an aviation safety counselor to discuss safety items and to promote our mission at the base," he said. "We let the public know what we do here to make it less frightening when they see a C-130 fly by. Then they'll understand why it's there and what it's doing."

Major McDonald won the Little Rock district award among 100 aviation safety counselors. The district encompasses all of Arkansas. His package was then forwarded for the Southwest region award, which comprises Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Louisiana. He won the Southwest region and then his package was forwarded to FAA headquarters in Washington, D.C., where he was judged against the eight other region winners in the country. He is the ninth national winner in the history of the award.

He said another key player in the success of the base's aviation safety program is Jarrett McFarline, the Little Rock district safety manager. McFarline has worked with the base program for 18 years and organizes most of the briefings Majors McDonald and Sicard give.

"Because my face and Major Sicard's face are seen out and around the state, they appreciate us and Little Rock Air Force Base," said Major McDonald.

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# AETC Bases News Clips Sheppard AFB, TX



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## Evaluating disaster

### Wichita Falls response not expected to be widespread

**Larry Gittings  
and Jeff Hall**  
Times Record News

Although hundreds, if not thousands, of military personnel, law enforcement officers and disaster specialists from around Texas are being mobilized to help search for wreckage of Saturday's space shuttle disaster, few of them are coming from the Wichita Falls area.

Only a trickle is coming from the North Texas area, officials said Monday.

The space shuttle Columbia disintegrated over Texas as it made its

approach to landing at the Kennedy Space Center in south Florida on Saturday morning.

killing all seven astronauts on board.

Most of the wreckage landed in a wide swath of southern and southeastern Texas, centered near the Nacogdoches area.

Rhonda McCombs, the health and safety officer for the local chapter of the American Red Cross, said Monday two people from

the Wichita Falls area went to Nacogdoches on

Please see  
**LOCAL on Page 8A**



The Associated Press  
**Keegan Green, 8,**  
is comforted by  
her mother Amy  
Green on Monday in  
Nacogdoches, Texas.

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# AETC Bases News Clips

## Sheppard AFB, TX



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Saturday.

Lt. Col. John Skinner of the public relations office at Sheppard Air Force Base said Monday base personnel have been on stand-by since the disaster Saturday morning, but no one has been assigned to help comb the rugged terrain in southeast Texas for debris from the shuttle.

"When this occurred, Gen. (Arthur) Rooney put our search and rescue teams on stand-by, but we were never called up," Skinner said.

Perhaps the biggest call-up of local personnel is from the region's Department of Public Safety offices. Lisa Block, a public information officer at DPS headquarters in Austin, said Monday hundreds of troopers, including several from north Texas, are involved in the recovery efforts.

"We have 313, approximately, troopers going to help search for pieces of the shuttle and to keep order in the area," Block said.

A number of North Texas residents heard the noise of the sonic booms made by pieces of the space shuttle Columbia entering the atmosphere. A few even reported seeing vapor trails Saturday morning, according to various law enforcement agencies.

However, there were no confirmed reports of debris falling in the area.

The Texas Department of Public Safety office in Wichita Falls had no reports of any debris linked to the shuttle being found in the area.

Olney Police Department dispatcher Dorraine Slaughter said, "We had a handful of reports that they had heard a boom or something like an explosion."

Olney is 55 miles southwest of Wichita Falls.

"One person reported hearing something like a car running into someone's house," she said.

There were some reports of seeing things fall out of the sky, Slaughter said.

Elsewhere in Young County, a sheriff's dispatcher in Graham said a few callers reported "a faint noise."

The noise in Montague County sent deputies to see if there had been a crash at the airport near U.S. 81, but they found nothing, said a sheriff's office dispatcher.

An Archer County Sheriff's Office dispatcher reported receiving reports from a few people hearing a blast.

However, a dispatcher with the Jack County Sheriff's Office reported no calls.

The same was true for Wichita County and Wilbarger County.

In Oklahoma immediately north and west of Wichita Falls, there were no noise reports in either Frederick or Waurika.

*Times Record News*  
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